

### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method of lowering excess IgE levels in a mammal suffering from a disease where IgE is pathogenic which method comprises administering to said mammal an IgE lowering effective amount of a tetracycline such as minocycline or doxycycline. It is also directed to a method of monitoring the effectiveness of a drug in lowering the concentration of excess IgE in plasma in a mammal suffering from the disease in which IgE is pathogenic which method comprises making a first determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma of said mammal at an initial time; administering to said mammal the drug; making a second determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma of said mammal after the initial time and after administration of the drug and comparing the values obtained from the first and second determinations, such that if the value of the second determination is higher than or about the same as the value of the first determination and above a threshold level, then the dosage amount of the drug administered to the mammal is increased; otherwise the dosage amount is maintained.